

## To all Parents / Carers of Children attending Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) schools

Dear Parents / Carers

### Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy Parents' Reference Group

We all recognise that today's children are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This environment presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. Children need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This year, for the first time, the government has made Relationships and Health Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and has published statutory guidance which sets out the legal duties with which schools must comply when teaching this. The government is clear, however, that parents / carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters. Schools complement and reinforce this role; building on what children learn at home is an important part of delivering a good education.

The government's guidance includes statutory content that schools have to teach. In primary schools, the government's aim for the teaching of Relationships and Health Education is to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. These building blocks sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy; teaching about mental wellbeing is also regarded as central to these subjects. This compulsory content will be taught within the wider programme of Personal, Social, Health and Education.

The guidance also sets out the rights of parents/carers to withdraw pupils from Sex Education (but not Relationships or Health Education) and the process that headteachers should follow in considering a request from a parent. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of Sex Education in primary schools.

In view of the information above, **we would like to invite you to take part in a parents' reference group to gain your views on PDET's draft RSHE policy. Please note: this will not include discussions about any specific details relating to your school's teaching of RSHE. Your school will offer an opportunity to discuss this with you at a later date.** If you would like to be part of this group, please indicate this to your school's Headteacher, in writing, by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Please also give written consent for your email address to be used for these purposes. Documentation will be circulated by email; it is envisaged no virtual meetings will need to take place.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Duncan Mills  
CEO, PDET